A Guide For the Co-Workers of the Pennsylvania German Dictionary

Professor C. Richard Beam's vast plans for the compilation of a comprehensive Pennsylvania German Dictionary are getting well under way, thanks to the many co-workers whose interest the lexicographer has enlisted. For those of our readers who may wish to join his corps of workers, but do not understand the involvements of the work Professor Beam has issued a Guide. Beginning with this issue of the Eck we shall publish this Guide in several installments as a service in the furtherance of this interesting and valuable undertaking. - Address all questions and comments to: C. Richard Beam, 60 Forney Drive, Lititz, Pa.

INTRODUCTION

It is quite natural that some of the speakers of Pennsylvania German who are asked to assist in the compilation of a new Pennsylvania German Dictionary (PGD) will wonder what it's all about. After all, they will reason, aren't dictionaries usually the work of a few highly skilled lexicographers? Ordinarily this is true; however, we are dealing with a different kind of dictionary! We envision a dictionary which will be more than an alphabetical listing of typical Pennsylvania German (PG) words. If the new PGD is to measure up to modern critical standards, it will have to present the vocabulary of the Pennsylvania Germans in a manner which tells the user of the dictionary as much as possible about the typical and significant cultural situations in which the word, phrase, or sentence is or was used. The key phrase here is "cultural situation." Language is culture. By organizing and presenting our material properly we will be able to give our PGD user a unique insight into the culture of the Pennsylvania Germans. In other words, the completed dictionary is to be a mirror which reflects the lore and language of the speakers of Pennsylvania German.

OUR GOAL

What sort of information do we need from our co-workers, some of whom may feel ill-equipped for the task because they are not accustomed to writing PG? The information we seek is known to the fluent speaker of PG who possesses a good memory. Fortunately, most of the PG speakers fall into this category. Many of the questions you will be able to answer with ease if you take your time in reading the questions and formulating your answers.

In the most complete PG dictionary, **A Dictionary of the Non-English Words of the Pennsylvania - German Dialect by Marcus Bachman** Lambert, which has been published to date (1924 by the Pennsylvania German Society and reprinted in 1965), we are given the PG word, variant forms, accentuation and length of vowels, its part of speech, the past participle of the verb and the plural form of the noun, the English equivalent(s), an occasional illustration of its use in the dialect, and the Standard German or dialect German cognate. We are asking our co-workers to supply us with similar information. Since the material gathered by Lambert is already some forty years old, it is imperative that we make another survey which covers the same ground covered by him, i.e. the status of the dialect as he knew it spoken by the PG groups with which he was familiar. However, we dare not simply "check out" what he has done two generations ago; we must extend our coverage to include all the groups which speak the dialect wherever they may be — in Canada or in Oklahoma.

Our methods differ somewhat from Lambert's. We are more interested in regional and social variants, that is the variations in words according to geographic area and church group. We shall endeavor to include all the words which have been borrowed from English. We must illustrate every work in a dialect sentence. A determined effort must be made to record all known synonyms, that is, words which seem to have the same meaning. Where we are able to make statements concerning the gradual transition in a community or in a family from German to English, we should do so. If we ignore all linguistic and cultural change within the Pennsylvania German community, we present a distorted view of their life and language. As we search for authentic settings and illustrations for our PG words, we should ever keep in mind the lore which has come to be associated with the word or expression. If we are able to keep these points in mind as we compile our dictionary, our labors will compare favorably with Lambert's during the first quarter of this century.

PARTS OF SPEECH

Most of our co-workers will have been taught in school that there are eight parts of speech: 1) verbs, 2) nouns, 3) adjectives, 4) adverbs, 5) articles, 6) prepositions, 7) pronouns, 8) conjunctions. To this list we should like to add: 9) interjections.

When a word is listed in the completed PGD, it will be marked as a verb, noun, adjective, adverb, article, preposition, pronoun, conjunction, or interjection. Here are brief illustrations of these parts of speech in PG:

1) (Mir) **singe.**—verb
2) (Der) **Hund** (gauzt.)—noun
3) (en) **Scheeni**) (Fraa—adjective
4 (en) **iwweraus** (schneeni Fraa) — adverb
5) **die** (Scheier)—article
6) **uff** (m Dach)—preposition
7) **Er** (is letz.)—pronoun
8) (Er is uffgschdanne) **un** (is widder umgfalle.)—conjunction
9) **Ach,** (sell kann nett sei!) — interjection

Verbs and nouns may well cause the co-worker the greatest amount of difficulty, hence a few words about them are in order.

NOUNS

In the case of nouns the definite article which precedes the noun should be given. It is not enough that we list **Buch.** The definite article of **Buch** is "s" (Buch), therefore we must indicate this. The simplest way to handle this matter of gender is as follows:

s Buch der Mann die Fraa
s Watt der Schduhl
die Hand
s Meedli der Bodde
die Maschien

When we list a noun on the 4" x 6" word file card accompanying a questionnaire, we should always indicate its gender, i.e. is it preceded by der, die, or **s**? When you are not positive about the gender of a noun, please indicate this!

At the same time it is very important in the case of nouns to state the plural form. Thus we'll write: (s Buch) **die** Bicher, (der Schduhl) **die Schdiel,** (die Fraa) **die Weibsleit.**

VERBS

The verb is the part of speech that expresses the action in the sentence or utterance. For dictionary purposes two forms of the verb are most important; the infinitive (example: **singe**) and the past participle (example: **gsunge**). When the PGD is printed, we will list the infinitive form of the verb, (examples: **singe, lache, geh, laafe, schnarrickse, bosse** and the past participle. Examples: **singe, gsunge; lache, gelacht; laafe, geloffe; schnarrickse, - gschnarrickst; bosse, gebosst.** Even though the final dictionary will not always spell out the form of the past participle of a verb, it is very important that the co-worker always indicate on his 4" x 6" Word File Card the form of the past participle. Examples of past participles in sentences are: Ich bin frieh **uffgschdanne.** Er is fatt **goloffe.** Sie is in die Schdadt **gange.** Die Mammi hot die gans Nacht **gschlofe.**

ORTHOGRAPHY (SPELLING)

The problem of just how to spell these PG words we've grown up with and learned to cherish is not nearly as insurmountable as one might assume. We are very fortunate in that we already have a system of spelling that fits PG very well and conforms for the most part to Standard German (St G) orthography. We refer to the PG orthography developed by Professors Barba and Buffington which has been employed in S PENNSYLVAANISCH DEITSCH ECK of the Allentown **Morning Call**, the publications of the Pennsylvania German Folklore Society, and in **A Pennsylvania German Grammar** by Albert F. Buffington and Preston A. Barba. Buffington gives a detailed description of this spelling system on pages 4 - 10, **A Pennsylvania German Grammar,** Revised Edition, 1965. So that each co-worker might become familiar with this orthography, we reproduce the Buffington - Barba system with a few simplifications. THIS IS THE SYSTEM OF SPELLING TO BE EMPLOYED HENCEFORTH In THE PGD. We encourage all our co-workers to master it and use it!

Accented Vowel Sounds

1. The short vowels

Vowels are generally short:

a. before two or more consonants;

b. before a single final consonant (unless St G has a long instead of a short vowel: **gut, Hut.**

Symbol Sound

a — like English o in got: **glatt** (smooth), **ball** (soon), **Hann** (horn), **kaz** (short), **datt** (there), **Hasch** (deer).

ae — like English a in fat: **Maetsch** (match).

e — like English e in get: **gewwe** (to give), **Wedder** (weather).

i — like English i in fit: **dick** (thick, stout), **Kind** (child).

0 — like English u in cut: **Dochder** (daughter), **oft** (often), **Kopp** (head).

u — like English **oo** in foot: **Buch** (book), **Budder** (butter).

2. The long vowels

Vowels are long: a. before a single medial consonant;

b. when doubled;

c. when followed by h;

d. when final: **Bu, so;**

e. before a final consonant, when St G has a long vowel: **rot, Not, gut.**

aa — like English aw in saw: **Naas** (nose), **Raam** (cream), **waar** (true; was), **faare** (to drive). However, this sound is represented by the letter o in words where St G has o: **Ohr, Verlore** (St G Ohr, **verloren**).

ae — like English a in gas: **Daer** (door).

e, ee, eh — like English a in sale: **lese** (to read), **See** (sea), **fehle** (to lack).

ie, ieh — like English ie in believe: **grie** (Green), **frieh** (early)

o, oo, oh — like English o in note: rot (red), **Boot** (boat), **froh** (glad).

u, uu, uh — like English oo in moon: **Hut** (hat), **Schuh** (shoe), **Fuus** (foot).

Single **u** is long when final or followed by one consonant: **du** (you), **Duwack** (tobacco).

3. The diphthongs

Symbol Sound

au — like English ou in house: **Gaul** (horse), **Haus** (house).

ei — like English ei in height: **heit** (today), **mei** (my).

oi — like English oy in boy: **Hoi** (hay), **Moi** (May).

4. The vocalic **r**

After another vowel and immediately preceding a consonant, or at the end of a word, the letter r represents a vocalic r, like English a in father: **Gaarde** (garden), **Gerschde** (barley), **Haar** (hair), **Yaar** (year), **Daer** (door: in Amish - Mennonite pronunciation in Lancaster County, Penna.; the writer's family pronounces the word: Dier), Ohr (ear).

(To Be Concluded)

JULY

Der Juli hot sei Naame vun sellem grosse Reemische General, Julius Caesar, wu mer viel lest devun in der History. Der Julius waar en gscheiter Kall un hot de Romans ihre Kalenner, wu arrig verhuddelt waar selli Zeit, rumgschafft. Sie hen als yuscht ebaut 355 Daage ghatt fer'n Yaahr un die Monet graad noch 'm Mond gezehlt; weil zwelf Monet noh net recht lang genunk waare, hen sie alsemol eener extraa neigflickt. Der Julius hot em Yaahr 365 Daage gewwe, un weil sell aa net gans ausreecht, hot er gsaat, dass der February, wu's End vum Yaahr waar, alle vier Yaahr en Schaltdaag hawwe soll. Fer noh die Ehr zu griege, wu er gemeent hot, ass em gheere deet, hot er der fimft Monet, wu er drin gebore waar — Quintilis hen sie'n als gheesse — uff sei Naame Julius gedaaft.

Der 4. July iss en arriger grosser Daag fer uns do in de United States. An sellem Daag (nau 190 Yaahr zerick) hen unser Ururgrossdaadis sich losgsaat vum englische Government un noh iss der Revolutionskrieg fer ernscht aagange. Fer sell heesse mer'n Independence Day, un all die Leit im Land, gross un glee, sotten wisse, wie sell so kumme iss. In Friehere Yaahre hot's als en grossi Celebration gewwe uff der 4. July; die Soldaade un Citizens hen gepareed, die Baends hen gschpielt, die Declaration iss vorgelese warre un die Spiekers hen der amerikanische Adler greische mache, bis em der Hals schier verschprunge iss. Heitzudaag watt an de menschte Pletz nix meh geduh ass gschosse un Schiesscrackers abgebrennt, bis mer schier verrickt watt vun der Zucht un vum Gschtank. So geht's iwwers gans Land un dattdarrich warre alle Yaahr paar dausend Leit, 's menscht Buwe, dodgschosse un verkrippelt. 'S iss eegentlich en arrig dummer Weg fer der Freiheetsdaag zu feiere.

Unser Pennsylvanisch-Deitscher Kalenner
Vum Kalennermann.
Allentown, Pa. 1905.

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(Conclusion)

In this issue of the ECK we conclude Professor Beam's "Guide For the Co-Workers of the Pennsylvania German Dictionary." Questions and comments on the part of the reader are to be addressed to: C. Richard Beam 60 Forney Drive Litiz, Pa.

We continue to set forth the system of spelling to be used in the Pennsylvania German Dictionary, in conformance with that employed in the Buffington - Barba PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN GRAMMAR and in Barba's PENNSYLVANIA DEITSCH ECK.

Unaccented Vowel Sounds

Symbol **Sound**

e — like English a in about: **hawwe** (to have), **brode** (to fry).

i — like English y in pity: **scheeni** (pretty), **gleeni** (little).

er — at the end of words or in the prefix fer; like English a in father: **Bruder** (brother), **fergesse** (to forget).

The Consonants

b — **beisse** (to bite), **Lumbe** (rag). At the end of words it is pronounced like English p in stop: **Kalb** (calf).

ch — like English h in huge or hew only much more breath is used; after the front vowels ae, e, ee, eh, ie, ieh, ei: **ich** (I), **Bicher** (books). like the sound you produce when you gargle with a liquid; after the back vowels a, o, u, aa, oo, uh, au; **Dach** (roof), Loch (hole).

d — **drei** (three), **dei** (your), **Disch** (table), **Bruder** (brother), **Mudder** (mother). At the end of words, it is pronounced like English t in fat: **Feld** (field), **Schdadt** (town). Ths sound is represented by the letter d or t depending on the spelling of the word in St G.

f — **Fenschder** (window), **ferdeele** (to divide), **Fuus** (foot), **uff** (up,on), **fier** (four), **fiel** (much).

g — At the beginning of words like English g in get: **gewwe** (to give). At the end of words it is pronounced like English k in bark: **Weg** (road). When used between vowels and preceded by a front vowel (ae, e, ee, e, ie, ieh, ei) the g (or gg if the preceding vowel is short) is a very soft y sound: **Regge** (rain), **griege** (to get). After the back vowels (a, o, u, aa, oo, uh, au) the g (or gg) represents another soft, almost inaudible sound: **Aage** (eyes), **saage** (to say), **yaage** (to hunt).

h — **hawwe** (to have), **Hund** (dog). This symbol is also used to denote the length of a preceding vowel as in St G: **Mehl** (flour), **sehne** (to see).

k — **Kalb** (calf), **kalt** (cold). This sound is represented by ck after a short vowel: **wacker** (awake), **drickle** (to dry), **weck** (away). Note that the sound k is spelled with the letters gh in certain past participles, such as **gheert** (heard), **ghockt** (sat), **ghalde** (kept;held).

l — **Loch** (hole), **alt** (old).

m — **Messer** (knife), **Raam** (cream).

n — **nee** (no), **Mann** (man).

ng — always like English ng in **singer** (never as in finger): **Ring** (ring), **englisch** (English).

p — **Peif** (pipe), **Pund** (pound). When the prefix be- precedes a stem beginning with h, it contracts to a p sound: **bhalde** (to keep), St G **behalten.**

r — **rufe** (to call), **Biere** (pears).

s,ss — **Seel** (soul), **besser** (better). **Kees** (cheese). It is written either s or ss when between vowels or at the end of a word in accordance with St G orthography.

sch — **schiesse** (to shoot), **wesche** (to wash), **bescht** (best).

tsch — like English ch in church:**Tschapp** (job), **rutsche** (to slide).

t — **Tax** (tax), **Tee** (tea). This sound occurs between vowels in PG. Where St G has an intervocalic t or tt, PG has do or dd: **Budder** (butter), St. G. Butter; **bede** (to pray), St G beten. Note also: Pg **Schdall** (stable), **schdehle** (to steal).

w, ww — **was** (what), **gewwe** (to give), **gewiss** (certain, sure).

x — like English x in six or chs in St G **Fuchs, Ochs,** wachsen: **Hex** (witch), 'nix (nothing), **Fux** (fox), **Ox** (ox), **waxe** (to grow).

y — like English y in yes: **yung** (young), **Yaar** (year), **Sarriye** (care).

z, tz — like English ts in rats: **zwee** (two), **Zeit** (time). In the middle of words and frequently at the end, as in St G, this sound is represented by tz: **schwetze** (to speak), **Katz** (cat).

P.G.D. CO-WORKERS

Pennsylvania German Dictionary

If our completed PGD is to have permanent value, it must reflect the dialect as it has been used as a literary vehicle, as it has been recorded in scholarly studies (dissertations and articles by Fogel, Buffington, Barba, Frey, Wood, Shoemaker, Seifert, Reed, Schach, Kyger, Richter, Braun, etc., and as it is currectly used in at least twenty states in the USA and two provinces of Canada. In order to reach the third goal just mentioned we need the services of dedicated co-workers who represent all the various groups that still used the dialect and every separate settlement, district or area where PG is spoken. The key person, then, in our entire undertaking is the co-worker who is willing and able to devote an hour or two of his time whenever a PGD questionnaire reaches him.

We urge each co-worker to enlist the services of additional co-workers in his area, so that eventually men and women representing all age groups, the chief occupations and all church groups in the vicinity are responding to our questionnaires. The younger and middleaged (30-50) generations can tell us much about dialect change; the older folks will tell us about words and customs common around and even before 1900. The farmers know the most concerning farming terms; the craftsmen the names of tools and techniques; the miller the milling terms and the miner the dialect of the mines. We know from experience PG varies not only geographically but also socially. Each of us has been marked by the family, the community, the church, the school and the times into which we were born. If we look carefully, we will find this fact reflected in our use of PG. (Some of us call a door a Dier, some of us a Daer. Some say Kallick, others Kallich. In Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, the PG - speaking Mennonite does not refer to his Karrich — as the writer would — but rather to his Gmeehaus. Ich geh in die Karrich awwer er geht in die Gmee!)

The ideal co - worker thinks carefully before he answers the questions posed by the questionnaires. Whenever possible he provides more information than the questionnaire asks for, because the thoughtful co-worker realizes that the more accurate, the more complete his questionnaire, the more accurate and complete the final PGD will be.

The enthusiastic co-worker will make suggestions to the editor for questionnaire topics and questionnaire items. These suggestions will enable the editor to perform more efficiently, by preparing more realistic and more searching questions.

THE QUESTIONNAIRE

If the co-worker is our key person, the questionnaire is the key instrument in the PGD project. It is our measuring stick. We want to measure how deep the water is and how rapidly it's flowing.

The PGD editor uses all the resources at his command in constructing questionnaires: 1. The existing PG dictionaries by Lambert, Snader and Danner. 2. The published portions of the Pfalzisches Worterbuch (The German Dialect Dictionary of the Palatinate). 3. The scholarly studies mentioned earlier. 4. Personal contacts with PG speakers. 5. Answers to earlier questionnaires. 6. The publications of the Pennsylvania German Society, The Pennsylvania German Folklore Society and the Pennsylvania Folklife. 7. "Alle Sadde Wadde" in Dr. Barba's S PENNSYLFAANISCH DEITSCH ECK in the **Allentown Morning Call.** 8. Scholarly journals published both here and in Europe. 9. Questionnaires used in the compilation of German dialect dictionaries.

We have endeavored to develop the PGD questionnaire into a searching and penetrating measuring device. At the same time we attempt to make them interesting, if possible entertaining, by "priming the pump" with stimulating anecdotes, riddles, proverbs, nicknames, placenames, etc. In order that in the future the PGD staff can handle the influx of information efficiently, a number of simple requests are necessary:

1. Please write only on the printed side of a questionnaire. If there is insufficient space on the face of the questionnaire, please use additional sheets of paper of the same size. Please, never write on the back!

2. Type or write your answers as neatly as possible using double spacing, so the material may be easily read and filed.

3. If you answer on a sheet other than the questionnaire, please identify your answers by the number (or date) of the questionnaire and by the number of the question. If you must use more than one answer sheet, please number them accordingly (for example, Questionnaire Number 1: Continuation Number 1, 2, 3, etc.).

As soon as possible the questionnaires will be supplemented with special answer forms 4" by 6" in size. Each coworker will receive a supply of these forms, so that information pertaining to any given word or expression can be recorded thereon. A separate form is to be used for each word or expression. Only the printed side of this form is to be used. If additional space is required, please continue on another 4" x 6" form. In the upper right hand corner of this smaller form, space will be provided for the number of the questionnaire; in the upper left hand corner please write the number given of the word or expression on the questionnaire and the word itself in the dialect form known to you. Should you need to use additional 4" x 6" forms, please enter the same numbers at the top as on the first form. Enter the word itself in the same place followed by C1, C2, C3, etc., when a second, third, fourth, etc. additional form is needed. Please underline the dialect word on the continuing forms.

It is on this 4" x 6" sheet that all the information known to the co-worker concerning the word under discussion should appear. The gender, plural and diminutive forms of nouns (s Buch, die Bicher, s Bichel or s Bichli) should be entered here. The verb should appear in the infinitive form (singe, lache, rolle, etc.), the past participle (gsunge, glacht, grollt) and in the second and third person singular forms if these forms are irregular (mechscht, mecht; segscht, secht). Regular forms like **gehscht, geht, singscht, singt,** need not be listed.

As we indicated above under PARTS OF SPEECH, where it is possible for the co-worker to identify the part of speech he should do so. There is no great loss if the informant is unable to give the part of speech of each word. THE IMPORTANT TASK IS TO ILLUSTRATE THE USE OF THE WORD, PHRASE, OR EXPRESSION IN TYPICAL PG SENTENCES. Many co - workers will be able to give PG sentences illustrating the use of a word even though they cannot produce an accurate English equivalent. The important point here is that the illustrations of the use of the PG word in context are just as important as the English translation itself. A sentence or short paragraph in PG illustrating the use of the PG word is more valuable than a one or two word translation into English!

The purely linguistic explanations and illustrations are especially useful in explaining and illustrating the use of verbs, adverbs, adjectives, articles, prepositions, pronouns, conjunctions and interjections. MANY CONCRETE NOUNS CAN BEST BE ILLUSTRATED WITH PHOTOGRAPHS, DRAWINGS, OR SKETCHES. Ideally, every object that can be photographed or sketched should be photographed and-or sketched. These photos or sketches should be attached to the 4" x 6" form bearing the dialect name of the object. The photographs and-or sketches should be identified by questionnaire and item number which appear on the accompanying 4" x 6" form.

Some of the words which appear on the questionnaires will call to mind lore, beliefs, or customs commonly associated with them. It is important that the lore or folkcustom in question be recorded on the appropriate 4" x 6" card after the basic linguistic data has been entered. Again these 4" x 6" slips are to be marked according to the questionnaire and question number as outlined above.